

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

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DEPT FOR SCI/AE FOR AMBASSADOR TAPE

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TAGS: PARM, IAEA, US, UK, UR

SUBJ: REPORTING OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL
BY NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES

REF: PARA 7 IAEA VIENNA 6283 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: US, UK, AND SOVIET MISSIONS TO IAEA HAVE AGREED RECOMMEND THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT 1) ESTABLISH UNIFORM PROCEDURES FOR PROVIDING INFO TO IAEA ON INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS AND 2) CONSIDER ADVANCE OR AT LEAST MORE PROMPT NOTIFICATION TO IAEA OF INDIVIDUAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES BY THREE COUNTRIES. THREE MISSIONS WILL MEET AGAIN AT TIME OF SEPTEMBER GENERAL CONFERENCE TO EXCHANGE GOVERNMENTS' VIEWS.

1. UK AND ACTING US RESREPS TO IAEA CALLED ON SOVIET AMB ARKADIEV AUGUST 9. US TOLD ARKADIEV WE HAD RECENTLY ASKED IAEA SECRETARIAT WHETHER AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE AGENCY WOULD FIND IT USE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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FUL HAVE NOTIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES BY US, EVEN THOUGH AGENCY DOES NOT HAVE AND DOES NOT ANTICIPATE HAVING RIGHT TO INSPECT AND VERIFY SUCH SHIPMENTS IN A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE. WE GAVE SOVIET AND

BRITISH REPS PAGE THREE OF DOCUMENT MENTIONED REFTTEL WHICH SECRETARIAT HAD GIVEN US IN RESPONSE. (FIRST TWO PAGES OMITTED ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR COMPLEXITY.) FYI: WE DID NOT TELL SOVIETS THIS EXCHANGE HAD TAKEN PLACE DURING OUR NEGOTIATION WITH IAEA OF US VOLUNTARY OFFER SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT, BECAUSE (A) OF SOVIET DISTASTE FOR VOLUNTARY OFFER, AND (B) WE WOULD PREFER REACH AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES OUTSIDE VOLUNTARY OFFER AGREEMENT. END FYI.

2. SECRETARIAT PAPER ARGUES THAT ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF BOTH IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY NWS IS USEFUL TO AGENCY BECAUSE IT FACILITATES PLANNING OF SAFEGUARDS ACTIVITIES IN NNWS, BOTH THOSE COVERED BY NPT AGREEMENTS AND THOSE WHERE AGENCY HAS SAFEGUARDS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER NON-NPT AGREEMENTS. SECOND, INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY NWS IS USEFUL AS DOUBLE-CHECK ON VERACITY OF INFORMATION REPORTED BY RECEIVING (OR SENDING) NNWS, AND WHILE IT NOT ESSENTIAL THIS BE SUPPLIED IN ADVANCE, CLEARLY SOONER INFORMATION RECEIVED BY IAEA THE BETTER, ESPECIALLY SINCE MANY NUCLEAR SHIPMENTS TODAY ARE MADE BY AIR.

3. US REP EXPLAINED US PRESENTLY REPORTING ALL ITS PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPORTS (BUT NOT RPT NOT IMPORTS, AS FAR AS WE AWARE) TO IAEA EVERY SIX MONTHS. AGENCY THUS MAY NOT LEARN OF EXPORT MADE ON JANUARY 1 UNTIL FOLLOWING AUGUST. US COULD CONCEIVABLY INFORM AGENCY MORE PROMPTLY, BUT ADVANCE NOTIFICATION IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT CHANGE IN USAEC REGULATIONS.

4. UK REP SAID HMG PRESENTLY INFORMS AGENCY ONLY WHEN REQUIRED TO DO SO BY TERMS OF SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT COVERING MATERIAL IN QUESTION. HOWEVER, SINCE BECOMING A MEMBER OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, UK HAS BEEN COMPLYING WITH EURATOM REGULATIONS WHICH REQUIRE MONTHLY REPORT TO EC OF TRANSFERS OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR PEACEFUL USES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND REPORT ON DATE OF DISPATCH OR RECEIPT FOR TRANSFERS OUTSIDE COMMUNITY. HE NOTED THAT WHEN IAEA-EURATOM AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE EURATOM WILL HAVE TO REVISE ITS REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO COMMISSION SO THAT COMMISSION MAY GIVE ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO AGENCY REQUIRED BY TERMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OF AGREEMENT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT UK HOPES COMPLETE NEGOTIATION BY END OF THIS YEAR OF UK-EURATOM-IAEA AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTING UK VOLUNTARY SAFEGUARDS OFFER, AND THAT THIS AGREEMENT COULD ALSO PROVIDE FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO IAEA OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS, ALTHOUGH HE WAS CAREFUL TO SAY HE DID NOT KNOW AT THIS TIME WHETHER IT WOULD OR NOT. IN SHORT, BECAUSE OF REPORTING OBLIGATIONS IT HAD ALREADY ACQUIRED OR WAS LIKELY ACQUIRE, UK HAD NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO INFORMING AGENCY OF ALL ITS TRANSFERS OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. ISSUES REMAINING TO BE RESOLVED ARE FREQUENCY AND PROMPTITUDE. UK REP NOTED THAT HMG WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH EURATOM BEFORE AGREEING TO ANY CHANGE IN UK PROCEDURES.

5. ARKADIEV SAID USSR INFORMS AGENCY OF ALL EXPORTS OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR MATERIAL AND OF ALL OF IMPORTS OF MATERIAL PREVIOUSLY EXPORTED (I.E., RETURNED FOR REPROCESSING). HE SAID TIME LAG WAS "VERY SHORT," SOMETIMES WITHIN A WEEK AFTER SHIPMENT. COMMENT: SECRETARIAT CONFIRMS THAT IT RECEIVES REGULAR INFORMATION FROM SOVIETS WITH REASONABLE PROMPTITUDE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE PIN DOWN PRECISE TIME LAG. WE DOUBT THAT IT IS VERY OFTEN AS LITTLE AS A WEEK.

6. THREE MISSIONS QUICKLY AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR THREE COUNTRIES TO AGREE ON UNIFORM PROCEDURES FOR INFORMING AGENCY. (WE DID NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS HOW DIRECTOR GENERAL MIGHT BE INFORMED OF WHATEVER NEW PROCEDURES MIGHT BE AGREED UPON). WE AGREED ASK OUR THREE GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER AGENCY'S REQUEST FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION AND ALSO WHAT OTHER TIMING MIGHT BE DESIRABLE IF ONE OR MORE OF THREE COUNTRIES COULD NOT AGREE TO ADVANCE NOTICE. POSSIBILITIES INCLUDED (A) REPORT DIRECTLY FROM SHIPPER (OR IMPORTER) TO IAEA ON DAY OF SHIPMENT (OR RECEIPT), OR (B) REPORTS FROM SHIPPER TO NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND REPORT BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO IAEA WITHIN, SAY, WEEK OR TEN DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM SHIPPER.

7. ARKADIEV WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON PROCEDURES BY THREE COUNTRIES. HE ASKED WHETHER IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT PROCEDURES INCLUDE, FROM BEGINNING, ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. WE REPLIED THAT, IN AGENCY'S VIEW, IT WAS PREFERABLE BUT PROCEDURES FOR PROMPT NOTICE AFTER DISPATCH OR RECEIPT WOULD STILL BE VERY USEFUL. EACH OF THREE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED WOULD HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TO WEIGH ADDITIONAL UTILITY TO AGENCY AGAINST INTERNAL EFFORT REQUIRED FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION.

8. SINCE KEY OFFICIALS OF THREE GOVERNMENTS WILL BE IN VIENNA SEPT 17-21 FOR IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE, MISSIONS AGREED ASK THEIR GOVERNMENTS FOR INSTRUCTIONS IN TIME FOR ANOTHER MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT AT THAT TIME. LABOWITZ

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